

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 02, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. All the pending claims 1-60 in the instant application stand rejected. The Applicant traverses the rejection in view of the following comments.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-60 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,048,328 ("the Haller patent") in view of various other references.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his time during the June 1, 2004 telephone call. In that call, the undersigned pointed out that the primary reference forming the basis for rejection of the claims is not prior art to the present application. In particular, the present application is a reissue application to U.S. Patent No. 5,820,589, which was filed on April 30, 1996. The Haller patent, however, was filed on February 2, 1998 and issued on April 11, 2000. The Haller patent therefore cannot be considered prior art. During yesterday's call, the Examiner agreed that the Haller reference cannot be considered prior art and therefore would moot the rejections in the March 02, 2004 Office Action.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a conversation with Applicant's representative would be useful in the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to call Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 2, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Binal J. Patel', is written over a horizontal line.

Binal J. Patel
Reg. No. 42,065

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 463-5000
Facsimile: (312) 463-5001